

JOHN OSBORN POLAK

Born March 12, 1870—Died June 29, 1931

IN the passing of John Osborn Polak the American College of Surgeons shares with the medical world the loss of one of the great gynecologists and obstetricians of our day. He was a Founder and Life Member of the College, a Governor 1913-16 and 1926-31, and a Regent since 1927.

During eighteen years, since the organization of the College, he was active in its work. He aided in formulating its ideals, in its vision and support of the scientific specialist in surgery, in its effort to better the environment of surgical practice, in its practical research, and in its stand for ethical transactions among physicians and surgeons.

Doctor Polak was wise in counsel, and he was uncompromisingly for safe administration. He was an ardent supporter of our partnership with the public, and ungrudgingly gave of his time at our annual congresses, and at our numerous sectional meetings throughout the United States and Canada, so many of which he attended.

The officers, Regents, and administrators of the College will miss his friendly greeting, his companionable spirit, and his staunch advocacy of those things that are right.

This friend, so suddenly and prematurely taken away, was ever loyal to the past, confident of the present, and trustful for the future. He possessed great strength of character, and many fine human attributes. It is difficult to realize that our personal friendship of many years has ended. FRANKLIN H. MARTIN.

DOCTOR POLAK was born in Brooklyn, New York, home of four generations of his family, on March 12, 1870, the son of Karl T. and Mary E. (Osborn) Polak. In 1896, he married Bertha L. Pitkin, of Brooklyn, who died in 1924. There is one daughter, Mary Osborn Polak.

He received his early education in the public schools of New Brunswick; B.Sc., Rutgers College, in 1889; M.D., Long Island College Hospital and University of Vermont, 1891, at which time he received the Dudley Medal for Surgery; M.Sc.,

Rutgers, 1901; interne, Long Island College Hospital, 1891-92; resident, Midwifery Department, New York Postgraduate, 1892-93; instructor in histology and obstetrics, Long Island College, 1892-95; instructor in obstetrics, New York Postgraduate, 1894-98; adjunct professor, 1898-1901; professor of obstetrics, 1901-7; assistant professor of obstetrics and gynecology, Long Island College, 1900-1910.

In 1902, he succeeded the late Dr. Paul Munde as professor of obstetrics and clinical professor of gynecology, Dartmouth Medical School, serving for ten years. He succeeded the late Dr. Charles Jewett as professor in the department of obstetrics and gynecology in the Medical School of Long Island College Hospital, in 1912, and on March 26 last was elected president of the Board of Regents of the hospital; chief obstetrician and gynecologist, Long Island College Hospital, 1911; attending gynecologist, Williamsburgh Hospital, 1894-1906; Brooklyn E. D. Hospital, 1896-98; Jewish Hospital, Brooklyn, 1906-22; Deaconess Hospital, 1899-1907; People's Hospital, New York, 1909-12; chief, gynecological department, Polhemus Clinic, 1899-1910; obstetrician, Methodist Episcopal Hospital, 1906-14; director, department of obstetrics and gynecology, Israel-Zion Hospital, 1924-29; consulting gynecologist, Jewish Israel-Zion, Caledonian, Bushwick, Coney Island, and Southampton Hospitals; consulting obstetrician, Methodist Episcopal, Mary Hitchcock, and Nyack Hospitals.

Fellow, Royal Academy of Medicine (Ireland); member, American Gynecological Society (councilor, 1921; vice-president, 1924), American Association of Obstetricians, Gynecologists and Abdominal Surgeons (president, 1927), New York Obstetrical Society (president, 1916), Brooklyn Gynecological Society (president, 1910), American Medical Association (chairman, section on obstetrics, 1921), New York Academy of Medicine, New York State Medical Society, Medical Society County of Kings (president, 1915), Long Island Medical Society, Associated Physicians of Long Island, Brooklyn Medical Society, Williamsburgh Medical Society, Brooklyn Pathological Society.

Collaborator, Keating and Coes Gynecology, 1894; and Text Book of Obstetrics by American authors, 1906; author, Manual of Obstetrics, 1913 and 1922; Students' Manual of Gynecology, 1915, 1922, and 1927; Pelvic Inflammation in Women, 1921 and 1931. Also author of many scientific articles pertaining to original work in his specialties.

Editor, Department of Obstetrics, INTERNATIONAL ABSTRACT OF SURGERY; member, Editorial Boards of the *American Journal of Surgery* and the *American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology*; and chairman of the Sub-committee on Parental, Maternal, and Early Infant Care, of the White House Conference on Child Health and Protection.



The Hon. H. H. H. H.

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